

work he has done in the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors. The Pennsylvania Association of Realtors Distinguished Service and National Award Chip received is a most prestigious honor and one that appropriately acknowledges Chip's outstanding contributions to his profession and community.

**HOLOCAUST MUSEUM TO HONOR
TURKISH DIPLOMAT FOR SAVING
JEWISH LIVES**

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on October 26th, the Holocaust Memorial Museum will honor former Turkish diplomat Selahattin Ulkumen. Few honors anywhere have been more deserved.

In 1944, Mr. Selahattin was a young diplomat who stared down German military authorities on the occupied island of Rhodes, convincing them to rescind the deportation orders of 50 Jews and their families and saving them from certain death. He paid a painful price for his courage.

Today Rhodes is part of Greece, but it was part of the Ottoman Empire from 1522 to 1912 and under Italian control from 1912 through most of World War II. There were 1,700 Jews on the island when Germany took over Rhodes in 1943, after the death of Mussolini hastened the disintegration of Italian rule.

On July 19, 1944, the Gestapo ordered all Jews on Rhodes to report for "temporary transportation to a small island nearby." Everybody knew what that meant. They were to be transported—and not temporarily—to Auschwitz.

When the Jews were rounded up, Consul-General Ulkumen went immediately to the detention center and demanded the release of the Jews who were Turkish citizens, as well as their spouses and families. The German commander refused at first, but Ulkumen persisted, claiming that deportation of Turkish citizens would violate German-Turkish treaties and boldly asserting that neutral and neighboring Turkey would raise the matter to the level of an "international incident" if Turkish citizens were deported. In the eyes of Turkish law, he said, all citizens are equal.

The German commander finally relented, but insisted that only Jews with citizenship papers—a total of 13—would be released, not their spouses and families. Ulkumen, however, would not give ground. According to Turkish law, he said indignantly, the spouses and families of Turkish citizens ARE Turkish citizens. He was lying through his teeth. There was no such Turkish law. But the German commander fell for it, and, after a few days, agreed to release the spouses and families. In at least one instance, the husband of a Jewish Turkish citizen actually was taken off a train already bound from the Greek port of Piraeus to Auschwitz after Ulkumen won his point. Ulkumen also managed to win the release of some 25–30 Jews who were former Turkish citizens but had allowed their citizenship to lapse.

In all, according to the website of Israel's Yad Vashem Memorial Museum, Ulkumen managed to win the freedom and save the

lives of some 50 Rhodes Jews. He was their only line of defense against the final solution. The remainder of Rhodes Jews all were deported to Auschwitz, where 90% of them perished.

The story doesn't end there. Shortly after the release of the Turkish Jews and their families, the Germans—perhaps having discovered that Consul-General Ulkumen had tricked them regarding Turkish law—took their revenge. They bombed the Turkish Consulate on Rhodes. Consul-General Ulkumen escaped harm, but his pregnant wife did not. She was seriously wounded—mortally, it turned out a few weeks later. But, before she died, she managed to give birth. Ulkumen himself died last year at the age of 89, but the product of that pregnancy, a son—now a 60-year-old man—will accept the Holocaust Museum's award on his late father's behalf.

Ulkumen went on to hold many distinguished positions in the Turkish foreign service before retiring in the 1970s. Yad Vashem paid tribute to his courage in 1990 by naming him one of the "Righteous Among the Nations" and planting a tree in his honor. He was the first Muslim ever to receive this honor. In 2001, his own nation bestowed its highest award on Ulkumen—the Supreme Service Medal—for his Holocaust-era heroism on behalf of Jews.

In both Judaism and Islam, it is said that saving one life is like saving the world. Thanks to Mr. Ulkumen, several family trees flourish today that otherwise would have been eliminated forever. He put his life—and that of his family—at risk rather than compromise his belief in equality and his commitment to the sanctity of human life. Unfortunately for Europe's Jews, bravery of his sort was all-too-rare. I commend the Holocaust Museum for venerating the memory of Selahattin Ulkumen and his deeds and for bestowing this honor on this profoundly honorable man.

**CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF THE
NEWSPAPER ASIANWEEK**

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, a distinguished, nationally-distributed newspaper based in San Francisco is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Today I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting a quarter-century of achievement by this important information resource, AsianWeek.

Founded in 1979 by John T.C. Fang, who came to the United States from China in the early 1950s, AsianWeek now boasts a confirmed readership of 175,000 people in its print form and countless others on-line. It is the only English language, national newsweekly chronicling the Asian Pacific American experience in all its variety. AsianWeek also offers an opportunity for Americans as a whole to learn about issues of particular importance to one of the country's fastest-growing communities, including civil rights, immigration, employment, and international affairs.

John Fang launched the paper to help his fellow new Americans better themselves, and his legacy has passed to his family: Now published by his son James and edited his son

Ted, and with the guidance of their mother, Chairwoman Florence Fang, AsianWeek reaches a broad cross-section of Americans, from recent arrivals in the immigrant community to leaders of national stature in business, politics, academia and culture. Its mission is to tell the story of Asian Pacific American life, to provide a forum in matters of importance to its readership, and to involve Asian Pacific Americans meaningfully in the nation's political process.

To this end, the paper recently scored an important exclusive among the Asian American press: an interview with presidential nominee JOHN KERRY, who discussed a range of subjects with editor-in-chief Samson Wong, from a proposed federal program combating hate crimes to the new vistas that have opened for his niece, a toddler adopted in China.

But perhaps more important than any single story, AsianWeek aspires with every edition to deliver consistent, high-quality information on all manner of subjects of interest to its target readership. For these efforts, it has won several awards—both for overall coverage and individual citations from New California Media, a national association of more than 700 ethnic media organizations.

The paper also provides place where disparate views on those subjects can be freely expressed. Dedicated to promoting discussion among people whose backgrounds include the many ethnic groups of South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, AsianWeek describes itself as "The Voice of Asian America."

Mr. Speaker, may the Asian Pacific American community, and U.S. society as a whole, continue to benefit from the availability of this eloquent and extraordinary voice.

**PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 10, 9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS
IMPLEMENTATION ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it pleases me that the Committee on Rules had the prudence to make the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. MENENDEZ, in order. This important amendment has been endorsed by the 9/11 Commission and embodies the provisions found in the Collins/Lieberman proposal, S. 2845 and the McCain/Lieberman proposal, S. 2774.

Nevertheless, I am disappointed that we only have 3 hours and 40 minutes of general debate to divide between eight of the many committees of jurisdiction with respect to this legislation. In our work on H.R. 10, we have a duty to take into account the families that will be affected. We in this august body have a duty to take into account that these families—in fact, all American families, will be waiting and watching to see if this body will act responsibly, appropriately, and adequately.

The base bill includes over 50 extraneous provisions that were not recommended by the 9/11 Commission. Within these extraneous provisions are legislative "poison pills" that will ultimately frustrate our overall purpose—to make America safe. These poison pills include:

Giving the President "fast track" authority to reorganize the intelligence agencies, undermining the reforms recommended by the 9/11 Commission;

Giving the President authority to bypass Senate confirmation of the Director of the CIA and other key intelligence and defense officials, weakening congressional oversight;

Giving Federal law enforcement officials new authority to deport foreign nationals, revoke visas, and deny asylum without judicial review;

Creation of new national databases of drivers licenses, birth certificates, and criminal histories, raising civil liberties and privacy concerns; and

Expansion of the authority of the Justice Department by relaxing grand jury secrecy requirements and increasing its ability to conduct secret surveillance.

I serve on the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, and it troubles me that while that body received a referral for markup, the leadership has chose not to schedule such a hearing. The very committee that would presumably hold the most jurisdiction over this matter deferred its opportunity to make this legislation better. That does not sit well with my colleagues on this side of the aisle and it does not sit well with the families of the victims of 9/11—it does not sit well with the American people.

Furthermore, while the September 11 Commission has set forth its bipartisan suggestion for rebuilding and improvement, we cannot even move legislation that authorizes homeland security spending through a markup by the main committee of jurisdiction. These issues are indicative of a body that has its priorities misplaced.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition and tribute to the families of the 9/11 victims, there should never be a price limitation placed on effectively securing the homeland. Nor should solid legislation be ignored or thwarted in carrying out the will of the American people. For this reason, I fully support the goals set forth in the Shays-Maloney proposal that was not made in order by this committee. I also fully support the Menendez amendment that has been endorsed by the 9/11 Commission and embodies the provisions found in the Collins/Lieberman proposal, S. 2845 and the McCain/Lieberman proposal, S. 2774.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4200,
RONALD W. REAGAN NATIONAL
DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am pleased to speak in support of the conference report before us. Chairman HUNTER and Ranking Member SKELTON deserve great credit for negotiating a bill that will provide our military—and the men and women who serve in it—the resources they need to keep America strong in the 21st century. It is always a daunting task to craft legislation that balances the needs of our services, and such an effort is

even more challenging during a time of military conflict. The chairman and ranking member have succeeded admirably in this endeavor, and the product before us today is a fine example of careful craftsmanship and bipartisan cooperation. We are proud of our men and women in uniform, and we must ensure that they are given the resources necessary to succeed in their mission.

H.R. 4200 recognizes the importance of our service men and women in the field and around the world and demonstrates the appreciation of Congress through the provision of a 3.5% pay increase for military personnel in FY 2005 and a permanent increase in the family-separation allowance and imminent-danger pay. I am particularly pleased that the measure extends TRICARE benefits to nonactive duty reservists. Our Reserve component has served the Nation professionally and valiantly even though they and their families have often had to make sacrifices. Providing enhanced access to TRICARE will provide greater stability to reservist families and will ensure that we do not lose qualified servicemembers because of insufficient access to health care.

The conference report also addresses several major problems that my colleagues on the committee and I have been working to solve. Our committee and our colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the House have fought for an end to a current flaw in our survivor benefits system that penalizes military spouses. For too long, military spouses have witnessed their survivor benefits drop by more than one-third once reaching the age of 62. Comparable civilian plans provide survivors a lifetime annuity of 50–55 percent of retired pay and protect against a drop in annuity at age 62. As a cosponsor of the Military Survivor Benefits Improvement Act, I have supported efforts to repeal this unfair burden and am pleased that this legislation would phase out from October 2005 to March 2008 the current offset under the Survivor Benefit Plan, and increase the annuities paid to survivors of military retirees who are 62 years or older. Additionally, the agreement expedites last year's concurrent receipt improvements by authorizing full concurrent receipt for disabled military retirees rated 100% disabled.

I am, however, disappointed, that the conference report scaled back the provisions that I offered with Congressman JIM COOPER during committee consideration that would ensure greater equity and efficiency of the Department of Defense's contracting process. The agreement appears to close loopholes that have allowed the Department of Defense to avoid Congressionally mandated competition requirements and provides limited appeal rights for government employees to challenge contract decisions. Yet it falls short in other areas intended to guarantee taxpayer savings and improved efficiency in DoD contracting procedures. I look forward to working with the committee to implement H.R. 4200's provisions and to address other shortcomings in this area.

Overall, this legislation is a well-balanced approach to the needs of our Nation's military, and I commend the chairman, ranking member, and my colleagues on the committee for a fine work product.

HONORING MARY MILLS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I want to take time today to recognize someone who has been a true public servant in Williamson County, Tennessee. Few communities are fortunate enough to have someone like Mary Mills. But we in Tennessee have been blessed by her hard work and dedication for years now.

Williamson County Commissioner Mary Mills has consistently and without fanfare worked to improve her community. As a former educator and an active member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Commissioner Mills has been a leader in everything she does.

This week she's being recognized by the United Community Resource Foundation with a Lifetime Achievement Award, and I join the people of Williamson County in thanking Mary for her dedication.

IN SUPPORT OF BORDER
BINATIONAL HEALTH WEEK

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of an important event that I am proud to say will soon take place in my congressional district of El Paso, Texas—Border Binational Health Week. Through the efforts of federal, state, and local stakeholders and community members in the United States and Mexico, Border Binational Health Week will raise awareness and strengthen our commitment to overcoming border health challenges.

The border is a very dynamic region and a gateway for diseases such as gastrointestinal illnesses, a tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS, and a disproportionate number of border residents suffer from chronic illnesses like cancer, heart disease, and diabetes. It is impossible to stop the spread of diseases at the border, so we must work together, bi-nationally, to address health concerns and combat illness. In short, Mexico and the United States must be partners in achieving our common goal of solving health problems along the U.S.-Mexico border.

As part of that critical effort, I am pleased to announce that Border Binational Health Week will be held from October 11–17, 2004, and is being sponsored by the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission. The Commission, along with many partners on both sides of the border, has worked diligently in developing the agenda for this extremely important event.

The theme for Border Binational Health Week is "Families in Action for Health." Some of the many topics to be highlighted are improving access to health care, reducing health disparities, and increasing immunization rates. The week will also include community mobilization efforts, informational presentations, policy forums, models of excellence programs, and health careers and professional exchanges—all illustrating the steps to a healthier border and advancing the goals of the Healthy Border 2010 initiative.